

# PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE  
NATURE AND TREATMENT OF SOME EXASPERATED SYMPTOMS  
ATTENDING THE  
**Veneral Disease.**

---

BY

*Edward Geoghegan,*

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS; OF THE ROYAL  
MEDICAL SOCIETY, EDINBURGH; AND SURGEON TO THE  
DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY.

---



London:

Printed by J. Cundee, Ivy-Lane.

FOR J. F. HUGHES, WIGMORE-STREET;

And sold by

Debrett, Piccadilly; Verner and Hood, Poultry; Crosby and Letterman,  
Stationers'-Court; West and Hughes, Paternoster-Row; Cox,  
St. Thomas -Street; Callow, Crown-Court; Gilbert, Dublin;  
Murdoch, Glasgow; Mudie, Edinburgh; Larkin,  
Boston; and Hughes and Co. Philadelphia.

---

1801.

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016

<https://archive.org/details/b24926619>

TO  
*JOHN BIRCH, Esq.*

SURGEON IN EXTRAORDINARY TO THE PRINCE  
OF WALES,

SENIOR SURGEON TO ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,  
*&c. &c.*

THIS TREATISE

IS INSCRIBED WITH RESPECT,

BY HIS OBLIGED  
AND VERY HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

*5, Wigmore Street.*



---

## *PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS.*

---

WHEN we reflect on the many and various phenomena which the science of Medicine exhibits, the wide and extensive range of philosophical consideration it embraces, we cannot be surprised that the nature and treatment of diseases should be involved in great difficulty, and indeed, often in obscurity.

It is to be regretted that authors in general, particularly those who profess to teach, are not so



minute and circumspect, in detailing the great variety of circumstances which influence the practice of the healing art, and which constantly occur in medical and surgical cases; the great attention of the ancients in this respect, should furnish a valuable lesson: they had no other lights but their own observations; and daily experience evinces that attentive observation is the only path to judicious practice. It is pertinently remarked by Doctor Friend, "That a man may practice and practice all the days of his life, and yet be never the wiser for his experience, if he neglects to make the proper observations which that experience might suggest to him: and it is not very likely he should be over-nice in his observations, who constantly goes on in his first track, and has no other scheme but his own narrow notions in his view."



The precepts of the venerable father of physick, Hippocrates, manifest the importance of a vigilant observance of Nature's laws: their sagacity will ever afford an instructive example to practical men; for, however the speculative may contest about systems, the principles of the healing art are immutable, and those physical laws which are beyond human controul, and which command our observance, are the only safe beacons by which we can direct our course.

It has often occurred to me in practice, and when consulting professional authorities, that in accounting for the phenomena of disease, many important considerations were overlooked, which, if minutely attended to, would materially influence the practice. Sydenham, with his wonted sagacity, remarks, "There are diseases that come under the same ge-

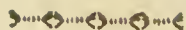


mus, bear the same name, and have the same symptoms in common, which, notwithstanding being of a different nature, require a different treatment.”

Those remarks of that inestimable authority, are exemplified in almost every disease to which the human body is subject, whether it seems to arise spontaneously, or is produced by accident. I propose to consider some symptoms attending the venereal disease, the nature and treatment of which, I think, are not well understood: and, I am the more desirous of entering into the investigation, finding that the most respectable modern authorities are not only undecided in their opinions, but inculcate a practice, which appears to me highly injudicious, and from which I have witnessed the most destructive consequences. The variety of forms which this disease assumes, and the symptoms of extraordinary

ordinary

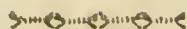




dinary malignity which occasionally occur, involve its treatment in considerable difficulty: there is scarcely a disease which it does not resemble in some of its features, and there is no general plan of treatment which is not contraindicated, under some particular circumstances; hence in investigating its phenomena, an extensive field of research presents itself, and indeed we have to lament that in considering the varieties in this disease, professional men calculate by so very limited a scale.

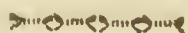
Although almost every form which the venereal disease presents, furnishes ample matter for observation, I shall confine myself to some aggravated symptoms, in which I have had considerable experience.

The symptom termed Phymosis is that to which I particularly allude; and I know of no affection,  
the



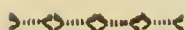
the event of which is more interesting; it frequently terminating in mortification, and the loss of a part or of the entire of the penis. The number of instances of this kind, which occurred during the summer, autumn, and winter, of 1799, excited my astonishment, and on communicating with other practitioners, I found that they had met with similar cases in a much greater number than at any former period: as to the nature and treatment of it, there were a variety of opinions, in general different from those I had formed.

It was noticed by the public that the venereal disease then raging appeared to be singularly malignant; and I have heard even professional men say, that they thought there was an increased degree of virulence in the infection. The appearances which gave rise to these remarks, were violent  
tume-



tumefactions of the penis often terminating in gangrene, particularly when injudiciously treated ; other symptoms were also observable, singular for intensity of degree. Although I was always decided in the opinion and practice I now maintain, yet the frequent instances within so limited a time, afforded opportunities for much observation, and led me to question the propriety of the practice generally pursued and recommended.

When the ordinary symptoms attending an infectious disease, appear to be exasperated in an unusual degree, the question arises, to what are we to attribute this encreased degree ? whether to encreased acrimony in the poison, or to any adventitious or physical causes insensibly operating ; this is the pivot upon which the point of practice must turn : if to the former, mercury is the remedy ;  
if



if to the latter, a great variety of circumstances are to be taken into consideration, which are too frequently neglected; there is nothing so common as to hear the surgeon declare in every case which does not yield to the usual mercurial discipline, that the constitution is in fault, and his mode of rectifying it, is in general, the free use of bark and wine, opium, cicuta, decoctions of the woods, sea-bathing, and those means sometimes are conjoined, but generally follow mercury in a kind of routine; as if they had a specific operation in every disease connected with the venereal, or with its antidotes. Before I proceed to enquire into those causes, which, I conceive, are but little attended to in accounting for the varieties in this disease, I think it necessary to notice the opinions of Mr. John Hunter, on this part of the subject; he says, “ That when this tumefaction takes place, in consequence



quence of a chancre, he suspects there is an irritable disposition in the habit, for it is plain there is more than the specific action, the inflammation extending beyond the specific distance." In his directions for the constitutional treatment he seems a good deal puzzled—his words are, "In those cases, where violent inflammation has attacked the seat of a chancre producing Phymosis as before described, and often so as to threaten mortification, a question naturally arises—Is mercury to be given freely to get rid of the first cause? Nothing but experience can determine this; I should incline to believe, that it is necessary that mercury should be given, for I am afraid our powers to correct such a constitution, whilst the first cause subsists are too weak; however, on the other hand, I believe the mercury should be given sparingly, for if it assists in disposing the constitution to such symptoms, we



are gaining nothing, but may lose by its use; I therefore do suppose, that such medicines as may be thought necessary for the constitution, should be given liberally : as well as the specific, bark is the medicine that probably will be of most general use ; opium, in most cases of this kind will also be of singular service ; the bark should be given in large quantities, and along with it mercury, whilst the virus is still supposed to exist ; or if the inflammation has arisen early in the disease, they may then be given together, so as to counteract both diseases, and not to allow the inflammation to come to so great an height as it would otherwise do, if mercury was given at first alone. This inflammation may be so great in many cases, or be so predominant, that mercury may increase the disposition, and therefore become hurtful. Where this may be supposed to be the case, bark must be given alone."

These



These are his observations in full, on the constitutional treatment of Phymosis ; what is to be learnt from them, I am at a loss to discover ; he puts a case of inflammation threatening mortification ; after expressing many doubts he advises mercury, but that it should be given sparingly least it should do *harm*, in the next lines he recommends it accompanied with bark and opium, and concludes by telling us, it may become *hurtful*, in the very case in which he advises it. It is evident from these equivocal and inconsistent opinions, that he had not come to any fixed or determined principle as to the nature of the disease, or mode of treatment ; the surgeon who gives mercury, and he who does not, in this threatened mortification, are alike sanctioned by his authority ; he also advises in the local treatment, to inject mercurials, even corrosive sublimate in the proportion of one grain to an ounce of water, and other mercurials





to remain in contact with the parts, but concludes, that he has his doubts as to the propriety of using any irritating applications in such cases ;—of this, more hereafter.

With respect to the question, whether the increased acrimony of the poison has any share in producing those aggravated symptoms? here, it is necessary to take a view of the effects which usually attend its application in the first instance. When applied to a non-secreting surface, ulceration is generally the consequence, and although attended with some degree of inflammation, yet it is rather circumscribed, and the ulcerative process goes on more rapidly than the inflammatory, and the latter is often totally wanting. Females having the slightest appearances, without even ulceration or any inflammatory symptom, indeed, ignorant of being infected





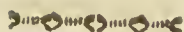
constantly communicate the disease, and the persons receiving it are variously affected; in one man it will exhibit the most trivial, in another the most dreadful appearances, and both infected by the same woman, at nearly the same time; taken into the stomach it produces no effect, and even proves harmless, when applied to the surface of many persons; it also remains in the constitution for years, without manifesting itself, or exciting the least disturbance. In the small-pox, we every day see the mildest and most malignant kind, and both produced from the same infection. These facts establish the principle most unequivocally, that mild or violent symptoms, whether attended with inflammation or ulceration, or in whatever form they appear, are not characteristic of variety in the matter of infection; hence, we cannot account for aggravated symptoms, from the nature of the poison. We are led then to look for an explanation of the phenomenon (peculiarity of

of

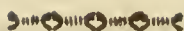


of constitution is the generally admitted cause) to some other cause, and whilst I agree that it is the true source, I cannot but express my astonishment at the narrow view which is generally taken of this material point. One would think from the plans of cure laid down and usually pursued, that bad constitution meant some fixed and definite thing, for which there was a decided rule of treatment; not that fluctuating state of the animal machine which is liable to vary with every breeze.

Surely, in considering the constitution, the great variety of circumstances which influence it are to be taken into the account. The constitution of the air, place of residence, disposing to diseases of different types, disposition to particular diseases, effects of the human passions, intemperance, exercise where rest is necessary, habits of life, also neglect of the local sore, or general habit, and many other causes



causes of interrupting the general health, which it is impossible to recount, and all of which have their share in exasperating diseases, and changing their form. Many states of constitution may arise during the treatment of the different stages of the venereal disease, from some of the causes enumerated, in which mercury would be contraindicated, it is easy to conceive, that inflammations of the penis may be superinduced, whether chancre exists, or not, as in gonorrhea; and that chancres may spread and put on the most malignant appearances, independent of the virus. When the penis becomes the seat of disease, its irritability is preternaturally increased. Should any additional cause of disease operate locally or generally, it is obvious that the part in a state of morbid sensibility, will feel its effects in a greater degree than any other, and that new symptoms will be produced *quo ad injuriam*



*juriam.* Was a person with a chancre to receive a hurt on his penis, and violent symptoms to ensue, could any thing be more absurd than to treat the case as venereal during the new symptoms? and might not the same effects arise from an injury of the constitution; do we not every day see the most violent diseases come on suddenly from an accession of cold, and affecting those parts particularly which were previously in a morbid state? Those who are subject to diseases of the urinary organs, gout, rheumatism, ophthalmia, sore throat, &c. &c. expect a visit from their old complaints, at those seasons, when the weather is remarkably variable, as in spring, and autumn. Hippocrates observes, “*Mutationes temporum maximè pariunt morbos, et in ipsis temporibus, magnæ mutationes aut frigoris aut æstus aliqua congruentur rationi eodem modo.*”



At those periods when catarrh is a frequent disease, and which is generally occasioned by an epidemic constitution of the air, it is observed, that pre-existing diseases are encreased, and that the prevailing epidemic manifests itself in a variety of forms. Sydenham observes, that “At the time of an epidemic, every other disorder, in some measure, participates of the nature of the reigning epidemic.” All the accounts we have of diseases arising from the state of the atmosphere, give instances of the variety of forms in which they appear, although the prevailing disease was catarrh, crysipelas often terminating in gangrene and death, palsies, convulsions, sudden deaths, mania, &c. See Dr. Fothergill, of Bath, in 3d vol. of *Memoirs of the Medical Society of London*, on the *Influenza* in 1775; and Doctors Gray and Carmichael Smyth, in *Medical Communications*, vol. 1, and 2; Dr. Gilchrist,



christ in Physical and Literary Essays, vol 3, on the Epidemic of 1762.

Hillary on Diseases from Constitutions of the Air, observed in the West-Indies, a most desirable field for observations of this kind, “ That boils and large imposthumations were epidemic at times, and that most cases of catarrhal fever were attended with inflammation of one leg, and that in many it did not attack the bronchia and lungs, but that in some particular constitutions, it fell upon such other parts of the body, as were either naturally weaker, or had been rendered so by some preceding disease, and then it produced some different symptoms; such as are peculiar to those parts upon which it fell, when they are disordered, and consequently required some different methods of treatment.”

Doctor



Dr. Gardiner, on the Animal Œconomy, in his Essay on Catarrh, illustrates this point with great effect; he quotes a passage from the late Doctor Clerk, of Edinburgh, in a letter to Sir John Pringle, in which he says, “ That in passing through a wet room his legs turned stiff, which stiffness ascended gradually until it affected his left kidney, or *tonsil*, his two weak parts.” During the epidemic which prevailed in Paris, in 1747 and 48, it was observed, that gangrene often succeeded fractures and other external injuries.

. That the principle contended for is admitted by every medical philosopher, there can be no question, and, I presume, that its application in explaining the phenomena under consideration, is obvious. I have already endeavoured to explain, in page 15, how diseases in the penis may be aggravated, and



the circumstances of the aggravated symptoms occurring when the sores are nearly healed, and the system fully under the influence of mercury, prove, that they are not caused by venereal irritation, and that the virus has no other share in the disease, only in as much as it predisposes the part to be acted on by the remote causes ; a morbid condition of body also is induced by mercury, which renders it peculiarly liable to adventitious diseases. These observations apply to every symptom attending the venereal disease, all which may be aggravated from similar causes.

From these considerations it is clearly deducible that the ordinary symptoms of the venereal disease, may be encreased from adventitious <sup>causes</sup>, wholly independent of the specific action of the poison ; and I hold it, that violent tumefaction of the penis is  
 I always





always so; their extraordinary frequency at the period alluded to, tells strongly in favour of this rationale. The Summer, Autumn, and Winter of 1799, furnish ample and melancholy proofs of the existence of a cause sufficient to derange the animal machine. A season so unpropitious as to encrease the mass of human misery in these countries to a degree afflicting and awful indeed.—The order of the physical world would be inverted, were not diseases influenced by that state of the weather which proved so universally destructive to vegetation; from the 27th of June to the 17th of November, there were only eight days free from rain, nearly five months, although it does not appear that the prevalence of any particular epidemic was marked, yet the ordinary diseases of every class were evidently increased in number and degree, remarkably obstinate rheumatisms were very prevalent



valent here and in England; also dysenteries, ophthalmia, and measles of a very bad kind, the natural consequence of piercing winds, acting on our bodies, now and then exposed to hot sunshine. We are informed through the Medical and Physical Journal, that so general and fatal was the typhus fever in London, that some places were nearly depopulated, and that the mortality was double what it had been at former periods. It may not be unworthy notice, that disease raged very generally among horses in this country during that year; and it is a fact, that at the time of epidemics a great mortality has almost always been observed among those and other animals.

The inflammation of the penis is admitted to be erysipelatous, and we know that erysipelas is a frequent



requent attendant upon epidemic causes. So numerous are the subjects of the venereal disease, that assuredly when diseases arise evidently from the state of the atmosphere, many venereal patients must be attacked, and they will be affected as before explained; those parts will be inflamed which were previously in a morbid state. In this way I would account for the exasperated symptoms which were so frequent in the year 1799. I was informed by Mr. Henthorn, one of the surgeons to the Lock Hospital, that an extraordinary number of cases of exasperated symptoms presented there at that time, but that they put on the putrid type, particularly among females. Mortifications were very general, and set in early, and often proved fatal. Giving this gentleman's opinion their full force, and I know of no authority entitled to more respectful attention,

still



still they do not strike against the principle contended for, That they were almost invariably inflammatory, the bad air of an hospital, and worse in a venereal than in any other, will, in a short time, turn the scale and cast the type; the ~~fatal~~ from the mouths of upwards of two hundred persons in one house, using mercury, will soon take down the inflammatory diathesis; besides, before the poor go into an hospital, they are debilitated for want of food, anxiety, and disease, and their cases become totally different from those who breathe a better air, live fully, &c. &c. In some subjects and diseases, the distance between the sthenic and asthenic state, is very short, particularly where the symptoms are violent; and I know of no point in practice, which puts our professional sagacity more to the test; a bold and decided practice in the beginning of inflammatory diseases, will, at once check their progress; whilst an imbecile



imbecile and temporizing plan will <sup>it</sup>certainly protract them, and favour every morbid propensity.

Although every case which presented itself to me was inflammatory, and appeared to have arisen from cold affecting the constitution, sometimes together with other stimuli, generally or locally applied, or both, and were relieved by plentiful and immediate evacuations ; yet I will not say, but cases might have occurred, in which the previous state of the constitution, and the operation of certain physical causes, would have rendered an opposite plan of treatment judicious ; but from every information I could collect, and from my own experience, the antiphlogistic plan was generally indicated during that season ; and, I believe, will be found so, in most instances of the symptom in question.



It often struck me, that the pendulous state of the penis, and its structure, dispose it, in a great degree, to those attacks, its natural sensibility morbidly increased by the poison, and constantly striking in that state against the breeches, &c. &c. must irritate it, and the surgeon seldom gives any directions to obviate that inconvenience where the ulcers are small. Suppose one of the fingers with some small ulcers, even free from virulence, and that it was left pendulous and unprotected, without bandage or dressing, coming in contact with foreign bodies, is it not obvious, that diffused inflammation would take place? How much more susceptible of injury is the penis from a similar common cause?

We have the testimony of almost every early writer, that inflammations of the penis often terminating in mortification, were common among the  
ancients.



ancients. Celsus gives particular directions as to their treatment; recommends strict regimen, fomentations, and suspending the part, which he thinks necessary in all its disorders; he speaks of the glans falling off, and advises amputation in some cases. In the 5th volume of the Edinburgh Medical Essays, there is a case of a young man, in Scotland, who had a gonorrhea, and after being six or seven weeks under cure, a mortification took place attended with high inflammatory symptoms; amputation was performed, and after repeated bleedings, symptoms subsided, and his sores healed; what is particularly noticed in this case is, the glans were regenerated. It is worthy remark, that there is no mention of chancre, or any venereal complaint but gonorrhea.



Inflation of the penis in gonorrhœa is noticed by most authors: the following observations of Boerhaave, shew, that he dreaded the worst consequences from adding to the irritability of those parts in a state of disease; he says, “ Whatever the cook, the vintner, or the apothecary supply to the irritation of venery: whatever has a tendency to tickle the prurient fancy, whether the company of the fair-sex, or lewd pictures, or wanton conversations, or lascivious reading, all such provocatives and allurements must be shunned as certain death.”

About eighteen months since, a young man was under cure for chancres, and getting well, the person who attended him, applied a dressing of *ung. cælestis* to a small sore, which proved obstinate, inflammation was excited, mercury was given,  
morti-





mortification immediately followed, the preparation was changed to the hydragyrum calcinatum; the sloughings increased, the penis, scrotum, and pubes &c. destroyed, and it proved fatal. Correctness requires that I should mention he took bark, opium, cicuta, &c. This patient was highly irritable and disposed to run into disease of the worst kind; the application was to him extremely irritating, and unquestionably produced the disease independent of the poison. About that time I met with several cases, in which the local sores were trivial, and the patients fully under the influence of mercury, and were suddenly attacked with great tumefaction of the penis, and where mercury had been persevered in, and indeed, where bark and wine had been given, the destruction of parts was rapid. I remarked that they were all in  
the



the beginning exposed to the weather, and some to great exercise ; in one it was brought on by a strong solution of the hydrarg. mur. fortis, which had been applied to remove warts. In another case the inflammation had set in but thirty-six hours, and the parts were completely sphacelated ; I found the patient using mercurial frictions, and taking wines under the then existing circumstances, which I am persuaded expedited the mortification. He was of a full habit, sanguinous temperament, and in the twenty-first year of his age, and had considerable symptomatic fever. I directed that the mercury should be discontinued, and a strict antiphlogistic plan pursued, but it was too late to save the penis, a great portion of it having separated. In many instances delirium and considerable fever attended, which seemed to me to have been idiopathic ; and

1

although



although influeneing, yet not arising from the local disease. Turner gives a case of a man, who after a debauch, was seized on the next morning with a shivering fit succeeded by fever ; inflammation of the penis, and mortification set in after a few days, a part of the penis sloughed off, and gonorrhea discovered ; in some time symptoms of lues appeared, mercury was then had recourse to, and the cure completed. The circumstance of this man being in a state of intoxication, and the general disease succeeding on the next morning, and the local affection appearing after some days, render it obvious, that the mortification was the effect of the general indisposition, manifesting itself in the penis, because it was in a morbid state : it appears in the account of the case, that he had been several times elapt and was never cured.

\* In



\* In Mr. Adams' Essay on Poisons, we have two cases of mortifications of the penis: one from Mr. Browne, the other from Mr. Wadd. In the first, it does not appear that any thing venereal was suspected; the first attack was an inflammatory redness and pains in the legs, which having yielded, he was seized with a violent pain and tumefaction of the penis, which terminated in mortification,

---

\* An instance of mortification of the penis occurred without a venereal cause, in an old gentleman at Balrothery, within fourteen miles of Dublin, in October 1799. He was asthmatic for several years, and upwards of seventy years of age. He had struck his penis against the saddle in riding, which brought on inflammation; after a few days it terminated in mortification; a portion sloughed off, and he recovered: in a few months after he died of his old complaint. Had this gentleman been a young subject, it is probable that mercury would have been given, which would certainly have prevented the favourable termination of his case.

and



and afterwards got well without mercury. In the other, a gentleman who had a chancre, and was under cure; after a debauch his penis was swelled to an enormous size, accompanied with feverish symptoms and a beginning spiculus; mercurial frictions and bark were administered, a considerable portion of the prepuce and corpus spongiosum sloughed off, sufficient to leave the urethra bare; after some time it healed kindly. The first, is an instance of the symptoms without a venereal cause; the other, of their having been produced by excess. An attention to these considerations is evidently of the greatest importance, as it will enable us to distinguish between those cases in which mercury ought, or ought not, to be administered; the deliterious properties of that medicine must be productive of the worst consequences in those diseases which supervene on venereal; and, indeed, the great difficulty in



accounting for the diversity of appearances attendant on venereal complaints, seems to me to arise from the abstract point of view in which the question is considered by writers and practitioners; seldom do we find them go beyond scrophula, debility, and sometimes unusual acrimony of the poison, as causes of every variety which occurs.

Mr. B. Bell, in his publication on the Venereal Disease, says, that he thinks, the phagedenic chancre, is occasionally owing to the matter of infection having been particularly virulent; he concludes that it is so, from ulcers of this kind being more frequent at some times than at others; and from observing them at the same time in different people receiving the infection from the same woman. About two years before the publication of his work, he met

1

with



with more instances of this phagedenic chancre, in the space of three or four months, than he had seen for several years before, and in four of them the infection was traced to the same woman, and that in a small town to which he was lately called on consultation in a case of this kind ; the surgeon informed him, that in the space of a few weeks, he had met with three instances of the same nature, in which the infection were also traced to the same woman. Were we to admit Mr. Bell's rationale on this occasion, it would shake some of our best founded, and most universally received opinions, and have considerable influence on the practice : an enquiry into its validity is therefore of moment.

Arguments have been adduced already to prove that the degree of acrimony in the matter of infection is the same in every case ; that it may be di-



luted is certain, but still, if it is capable of irritating it will produce the disease, which, once produced, it will be regulated in its action by the scale of the constitution. The host of evidence founded on experiment in support of this, is so powerful and unequivocal, as to have by this time, established the principle beyond all question. Giving Mr. B—the fullest credit for the accuracy of his statement, still I feel myself warranted in rejecting his conclusions, because I conceive, that the varieties he mentions are to be accounted for, in a way more consistent with the laws of nature and of acknowledged principles. One would be disposed to think, *prima facie*, that there was an inconsistency in the evidence brought forward in the support of Mr. B—'s character of the matter of infection. Why did he think it particularly virulent? because a certain number of men had violent symptoms, who





who had intercourse with the same woman; surely then, it was those violent symptoms which gave character to the matter, the woman consequently must have had similar symptoms, but if not, and if she had the disease in a mild form, it is fully sufficient to overthrow Mr. B—'s doctrine; for although I can conceive that the person communicating might have slight symptoms, and the person receiving the infection, the phagedenic ulcer, yet with Mr. B—, variety in the matter is occasionally necessary to produce variety in the disease; and it is a fair inference from his reasoning, that phagedenic chancre was essential to the communication of phagedenic chancre. We know that females with such symptoms, could not admit of intercourse; and this woman, from the demand she seems to have been in, one would suppose, had rather the appearance of health than  
of



of disease. Presuming that the doctrine of variety in the matter of infection cannot be maintained, we must direct our investigations in some other course; and undoubtedly, the state of the constitution, into which the poison is received, and the circumstances which influence it, are the only ways open to us. It would strike me, as accounting more naturally for the cases which occurred to Mr. B—, and to the country surgeon, to attribute them to an epidemic constitution of the air, acting upon irritable habits, rendered more so by the disease, and perhaps by mercury: had he proceeded a little further in his investigation, than the mere limited question of variety in the matter of infection, I am strongly disposed to believe that he would have found some other diseases with violent symptoms prevalent, at the periods when he

met



met those cases ; he observes, that they are much more frequent at particular times, than at others. \*

Mr. Adams seems surprised at Mr. B—'s relation of those and other cases of aggravated symptoms, and says, it was not the venereal, but sibbens, he was describing ; or that the disease appeared differently in London and Edinburgh, He wrote in support of Mr. Hunter's opinions, and concludes from some cases he saw, that new poisons were

*Edin*

\* On looking at the date of the case, in the ~~Eng.~~ Medical Essays, I find it occurred in 1736, when an epidemic raged through Scotland ; it appeared in a variety of forms. Is it not probable that the subject of this case, suffered from the prevailing epidemic ; it clearly was not venereal acrimony ; his original disease was gonorrhoea, and he was seized with the mortification after six or seven weeks, when, it is to be presumed, that the inflammation peculiar to his complaint had subsided.

springing



springing up, as observed by Mr. Hunter, who gives a case, communicated to him by Mr. French, where an ulcer in the glans on a gentleman known to have had intercourse just before with a woman of pleasure, destroyed the entire glans, and was rendered worse by mercury; abscesses on the head attended, and the bones were carious; however he got well, after between three or four years, and it proved not venereal. Although this and some cases given by Mr. H——, are rather difficult to be accounted for, yet I think his conclusion—that new poisons are springing up—ought to be contested. We know, that in some habits, destroying the balance once by any means, and they will run into disease, baffling all reasoning; how often has a scratch excited constitutional symptoms of the most distressing kind? How often do we see thickening of the <sup>face</sup> ~~face~~ resembling nodes, matter forming



forming under the periostium destroying the bones, in scrophula; and many symptoms, difficult to be distinguished from venereal. When such subjects contract the venereal disease, what have we not to dread? *Ingens, diraque cohors malorum.* It is easy to conceive that was an highly scrophulous poison to be excoriated on the penis, and to have connection with a female not infected, but who had <sup>le</sup>lucorrhea, and perhaps rendered acrid by promiscuous venery or other causes; is it not fair reasoning that an ulcer would be produced, and that it might become a scrophulous ulcer, on a part irritable in an extraordinary degree? Does it not follow, that scrophula would be brought into action constitutionally; and should mercury be given, aggravates as it is in almost all ulcers of the penis, and in obstinate ones, in increased quantity? Can we not in this way account rationally for many



of those cases in which mercury has proved injurious? and would it not account more satisfactorily for the cases given by Mr. Hunter, than by attributing them to new poisons springing up. The frequency of ulcerations of the genitals at all times, and their noxious effects being communicated by connection, are proved by many authorities. By the statutes made by Jane I. queen of both the Sicilies, which authorized brothels at Avignon, and which enjoins, that the wenches should be examined by the abbess and surgeon on every saturday, and if any of them had caught any illness, that they should be separated from the rest, lest the youths should catch their distempers. These statutes bear date August 18th. 1357 ; near 150 years previous to the appearance of the venereal disease.

I am



I am engaged at this instant, in an attendance in which the deleterious effects of mercury have been singularly manifest, although truly venereal. On my first visit, I found the patient spitting, and fully under the influence of mercury, although he had used but three drachms of ointment ; he had a foul and spreading ulcer on his penis, and a bubo suppurated ; his health was rather below par ; aged about forty, and of a delicate fabric. I directed that the mercury should be discontinued, and no medicine of any kind used for a few days ; the fomenting poultice was applied to the ulcer, and an aromatic fomentation : so soon as the mercurial irritation had subsided, it put on an healing appearance ; bark was then administered, and at the end of a month it was almost perfectly healed ; I then ordered the mercury to be resumed, half a drachm to be rubbed in each night, conceiving



that the condition of the body which was so unfavourable to its exhibition before, had been removed, but I was disappointed; so soon as two drachms had been used, it began to spread and to yield a sanious discharge, and soon surrounded the penis; the mercury was discontinued, and strict attention paid to the local treatment; a favourable change soon took place, and after four or five weeks it was healed completely; pains gradually came on in his limbs, blotches appeared in his face and over his body, and an inflammation seized the left eye. The case being evidently venereal, and the penis being perfectly healed, I determined on recommencing the mercury, and to try some other preparation. He took of calcined mercury and opium each a grain every night, which producing no effect, the dose was doubled without any advantage, accompanied with a strong decoction of





mezercon and sarsaparilla ; this plan was pursued about three weeks ; his pains growing worse and the cornea lucida becoming almost opake, I had recourse to the frictions, beginning with a scruple and encreasing the quantity to two drachms each night ; after having used about three ounces in this way, all his complaints abated gradually, that of his eye excepted, which remained stationary ; the unction was uninterruptedly persevered in for two months, during which time seven ounces were used, his mouth was little affected, but the noxious effects of the mercury on the constitution are very manifest, being in a state of extreme debility, and greatly emaciated. The mercury is now laid aside, and he is in a state of recovery.

In this case, it is evident, that the primary disease was venereal, and that it was aggravated by  
 mer.



mercury ; and that the secondary symptoms were ultimately subdued by it ; the explanation of those phenomena which I would offer, is, that a morbid condition of body existed paramount to the venereal action, which was increased by the mercury, and manifested itself in the ulcer, the moment the irritation was excited. The true venereal action we know, will yield the moment the mercurial is manifest in the constitution ; and when the reverse seems to be the case, I am persuaded it is from the cause suggested, that is another state of parts supervening. All must agree that mechanical injury of the part, would induce a new disease upon a venereal ulcer : it is equally obvious that it would be produced, through the medium of the constitution. His bearing mercury so well on the third time he resumed it, I would attribute to the state of body, which existed



existed in the first instance, being changed, and from ten weeks suffering, gradually habituated to stimuli, which it could not have borne at an earlier period. Mercury is highly stimulant, and we know that irritable habits, particularly when just removed from a state of health, can ill bear any stimulus : the venereal irritation was also paramount in the constitution at this time, the mercury, therefore, by exciting an opposite state became medicinal ; it is obvious that had it been persevered in before the ulcer was healed, he would have lost his penis. Cases similar to this, in all its leading features are not unfrequent. I find that they are particularly noticed by Mr. Pearson in his late publication, who very judiciously forbids mercury, during the phagedenic state ; they should serve as a caution to us how we persevere in the use of mercury, where the symptoms exceed the

the



the ordinary characters of the disease, and increase during its administration.

Mr. Hunter mentions, that he has often seen cases, where symptoms resembling venereal occurred during the cure, but were not so. When chancres were nearly healed, new ones break out near to the first, and put on all the appearance of a chancre, but he has always treated them as not venereal. He also remarks swellings of the glands in the groin, arising even when the constitution was loaded with mercury sufficient for the cure of the sores ; such swellings he considered as not venereal, but occasioned by the mercury being introduced by the inferior extremity. Every surgeon of observation, must see the force of those practical remarks. Men of little discrimination generally decide in such cases, that a recent infection has  
been



been contracted, or that the virus is still active, and pour in more mercury ; the patient, not unfrequently, censures his surgeon, and consults another, who puts him through a further mercurial discipline, which, in bad habits, proves highly injurious ; good subjects escape the evil, and are said to have been cured in the second course, the first having failed.

It is certain that ulcers, and other appearances, resembling venereal, are often difficult to be distinguished ; diseases to which the constitution was predisposed, are induced during the treatment, from a variety of incidental causes. I have known venereal sores to change their features from mildness to malignity in irritable habits, particularly in females from violent affections of the mind ; sudden changes of the weather would produce the same effects.



Mr. Blizzard, in a paper, in the second volume of Medical Facts, on epidemical effects, observes, “ On a sudden shifting of the wind to the east from the opposite point, I have seen almost every sore in the London Hospital, presently assume a bad aspect.” On the 5th of December last, there was a smart frost at night, and on the ensuing morning two patients called on me with inflammations of their penis, suddenly set in the preceding night. One was three or four weeks under the influence of mercury for chancres, the other had been with me but once before, and had used no application but warm water as a lotion ; he told me, that he felt great pain in the night, and that he thought the frost inflamed him, which I am satisfied was the case with them both. Trifling venereal sores are often enlarged, and bubos occasioned, by stimulating local applications. A gentleman, lately



lately under my care for a bubo and a chancre, had used a great deal of mercury, without producing any constitutional effect, however his bubo nearly healed, but the chancre, which was on the prepuce, proved obstinate: he was of a remarkably torpid habit, difficultly excited; I touched the sore with caustic, by which it was inflamed, and a sympathetic bubo produced; I directed rest, and the antiphlogistic plan; his friends (hearing that new symptoms had arisen, and that he was to be again confined, after being some months under cure) employed another, and censured my practice; frictions were had recourse to in increased quantity, and after two or three weeks he was supposed cured, because the new symptoms had subsided; but, undoubtedly, the quantity of mercury then used, would have been insufficient, if the symptoms arose from the poison.



If the opinions which have been advanced in the course of those pages are well founded, it will appear, that the wide range of medical science is necessarily involved in the consideration of the phenomena of the venereal disease, and that in conducting the treatment, it is merely necessary to apply the common rules of practice with minute attention. The general practice of commencing with mercury, the moment Phymosis appears, or even chancres, is often productive of the greatest mischief; not only the general constitution, but its particular state at the instant, ought to be weighed maturely. We every day see mercury prove noxious in venereal cases instead of medicinal, and in the same subject, for the same complaint. At another period, it will prove successful. This fact evinces, that mercury, although a certain antidote to the disease, requires a certain state of constitution to exist,





exist, that it may produce medicinal effects. What that state is, it may not be easy to explain ; it would occur to me to be necessary, that the venereal irritation should be paramount ; for, I can conceive, that if what is termed the phlogistic diathesis prevailed, which is constantly produced by cold, or the scrophul<sup>ous</sup>, and the venereal disease in the habit, that mercury would not cure the latter, whilst the former remained active ; hence, its injurious effects where venereal symptoms are attended with great inflammation, and the difficulty of curing scrophulous patients ; the same rationale, applies to other conditions of body prevailing in venereal cases, to which mercury is unfriendly. After the accessary disease has subsided, and that the venereal alone exists, then the mercurial irritation becomes salutary. With respect to the treatment of Phymosis and phagedenic chancre, I would lay it down as an axiom, that the venereal action should



should not be held in view, but that they should be considered as accessory diseases; and in all cases, where an accessory disease takes place, it should be removed, previous to attempting the cure of the original. ~~Where~~<sup>to</sup> pneumonia, violent catarrh, or any other disease supervene, the mode of cure in such diseases would be pursued, but no mercury, until after they had been removed; yet it is but too generally the practice, when the local symptoms of the venereal disease appear aggravated; to attribute all to the poison, and, *prima facie*, to pour in the antidote from which the most dreadful consequences are arising every hour; in Phymosis, immediate mortification; in chancre, a sloughing; and in both, the destruction of part, or of the entire penis.

A moment's consideration of the effects of mercury on the constitution, will convince us, that  
such



such consequences must naturally take place from its exhibition in such a state of parts. I will take Mr. Hunter's account of it: he says, "It produces universal irritability, making the constitution more susceptible of all impressions; it quickens the pulse, also enereases its hardness, producing a kind of temporary fever; but in many instances it exceeds this, acting as it were a poison." Admitting that these are its obvious and almost uniform effects, it follows that it will precipitate inflamed parts into mortification, and must enerease sloughing; its deleterious properties are evident in many instances; on the mouth it produces violent inflammation, ulceration, and sometimes mortification. Mr. Hunter says, he has seen it exhibited in a sore throat, mistaken for venereal, and as soon as it affected the mouth it brought on mortification. What effects are we not to apprehend from

its



its exhibition in diseases of other parts mistaken for venereal; its salutary effects in many diseases not venereal, must be acknowledged, but, in inflammation of these parts, which we know from their structure to be disposed to sphacellate rather suddenly, from any extraordinary excitement, and in the phagedenic ulcer it is highly injurious for those reasons.

I would reject, in toto, the practice of giving mercury during the inflammatory stage of Phymosis; the giving it *sparingly* as recommended by Mr. Hunter, is not supported by experience; a full and decided exhibition will alone answer the intention of subduing the venereal action, whilst a trifling exhibition can have no effect on the virus, and must encrease the adventitious inflammation; and as to bark, it is by no means indicated agreeable



ble to the notion I have formed of the disease. Inflammation of the testicle is often produced by the same cause as inflammation of the penis; a stream of cold air will occasion both independent of the poison. Would any man direct bark or mercury in the former? Surely not! Mr. H—— advises bleeding and purging, and no mercury in inflamed testes.—We know that persons subject to diseases of the hepatic system are peculiarly liable to erysipelatous inflammation, Should the penis become its seat, which it is easy to conceive may happen, from the causes before-mentioned; surely evacuations are decidedly indicated, and I have observed that diffused inflammation of the penis, is more frequent in bilious than in other habits. As the part concerned will not suffer any violent action long, and it generally terminates rapidly, the practice must be prompt and decisive! The great

1

functions



functions of the penis require, that it should be often distended, and for that purpose an extraordinary quantity of blood is determined more frequently to it, than to any other part, and its return is in a great measure impeded; this structure and its natural sensibility disposes it to be rather suddenly inflated, on any irritation being given, and, I think, points out a leading feature in the treatment, which is to lessen the determination of blood to the part, and to avoid local irritation: the former will be best effected by blood-letting, and other evacuations; the latter, by sedative applications. It has been my practice to draw off a pound of blood at the onset, where there was no contraindication, and I never found it necessary to repeat it. The evacuations were generally procured by the tartarized antimony; and, when consulted in time, I always succeeded in preventing, or limiting

ing



ing the mortification. As this symptom generally arises from a constitutional cause, and when it does not, is materially influenced by it, the great stress should be laid on the constitutional treatment. Van Swieten advises repeated bleeding and purging, and a strict antiphlogistic plan, as the only means of preventing mortification, even should it arise from ulcers; he pursued the same plan with success. Astruc says, that the only means of preventing mortification, is, by quickly subduing the inflammation; and he advises, bleeding, repeated every fourth or fifth hour for the first day or two, and to avoid all stimulating applications. He observes, that it is always accompanied with fever; he cautions, that the detergents, which he recommends for the ulcers, should be of the mildest kind, lest the inflammation should by any means be renewed, after it had completely subsided; he



desires mercury to be commenced. Wiseman, and most surgeons of his day, treated inflammations of this kind, by the evacuating plan, whether ulcers existed or not, and gave very little mercury.

The striking difference between the practice of the British and French surgeons at the present day is not a little remarkable: the former pursue the invigorating plan under the very circumstances in which the latter pursue evacuations. In Desault's Parisian Chirurgical Journal, we have many cases of erysipelatous inflammation threatening gangrene terminating successfully, by evacuations procured by antimonials: In one instance, a man who had a violent erysipelatous inflammation, occasioned by the bite of a horse; by plentiful evacuations the symptoms subsided; and from taking food in great quantities they returned, and put on gangrenous





greuous appearance ; they were again removed  
 by evacuations. In these countries, bark and  
 wine would have been his medicines. The indis-  
 erminate administration of this plan, is productive  
 of the greatest mischief. I can conceive a wide  
 difference between that state which threatens mor-  
 tification, and the actual existence of mortification ;  
 bark and wine in the former, in young subjects,  
 or those who have not suffered from previous  
 disease, is in general injurious. When we contrast  
 the gross diet of Britons, and the humidity and  
 cold of our atmosphere, with the light food and  
 dry and warm climate of France, we would be  
 disposed to conclude, that the former would be, in  
 general, fitter subjects for evacuations, particularly  
 by <sup>the</sup> excretions, than the latter ; for it is apparent,  
 that the ingesta, will bear a much greater propor-  
 tion to the ~~excreta~~, in such a climate as ours, and  
<sup>excreta</sup> with



with such food, than in a warm climate, where a light and perspirable food is used ; the testimonies of success in Desault's journal, are as respectable and interesting as any we know of, and the practice in symptoms similar to those in question, was directly the reverse of ours.

In subjects so debilitated that blood-letting seemed to have been contraindicated, I have known the best effects from spontaneous hæmorrhage from the part, which is in general, very considerable ; this first led me to appreciate bleeding highly in this symptom ; and indeed, when active inflammation exists, and we want a sudden effect, I know of no substitute for the lancet ; the question arises here, whether general or local blood-letting is advisable ? I prefer the former ; not only because I consider the disease to arise from a cause which involves



volves the constitution accessarily, but because the mode of taking away blood topically is liable to strong objections. Leeches are usually recommended, and I find by Mr. B. Bell particularly. In considerable Phymosis, the entire surface of the penis is inflamed. I can see little difference between a number of points of a scarificator being plunged into an inflamed surface, and its being pierced by the same number of leeches; the former would meet with general censure, and the latter appears to me not less deserving of it; during their application, and the after bleeding, the penis is kept in a state of constant irritation: the parts are exposed for a length of time, and the patient teased with a tedious process, besides, the obvious ill effects of the bites on parts in such a state. That it would be desirable to take blood from the neighbourhood of inflamed parts



I am satisfied, but object to the operation being performed by leeches, or in any other way on the inflamed surface. I have opened the large vein on the back of the penis, near the pubes, in the beginning where the inflammation had not extended so far, with great advantage. However, in the application of leeches in general, I have found, that when they were attended with beneficial effects, the loss of blood was considerable. Granting that each leech draws off two ounces, including the after-bleeding, eight leeches will take away sixteen ounces; less are seldom applied to an inflamed penis, or testicle. Surely, a pound of blood taken from any part of the body cannot be considered a local evacuation: How much more convenient to the patient, would it be to take the same quantity from the arm, avoiding all those causes of irritation, and effecting in a few minutes, that



that, which by leeches, would engage as many hours. Confinement to bed should be strictly enjoined, and the penis suspended, not up to the belly, as Celsus directs; that situation will prevent the free exit of any discharge, and distort the part in some degree; it should be merely not pendulous, and those topical applications which are found useful, in inflammation in general, should be employed. I usually order a weak solution of the acetated ceruss, made warm, with great advantage. I think it lightly sedative, in proportion of one grain to every ounce of water. A stronger solution I have not found to answer so well. Parts in a high state of morbid sensibility, can ill bear active applications of any kind, and the medicinal or noxious properties may turn, upon judiciously apportioning the preparation. Van Swieten used a very weak fots of this kind, with great



advantage. Hot aromatic fomentations are improper; they increase the determination of blood to the part, and promote its distention. If there is a discharge of mucus, or matter, from between the prepuce, or glans, injections of warm water, or milk, should be thrown up cautiously every half hour. Acrid injections, such as recommended by Mr. Hunter, are injurious in the extreme. One grain of the hydrarg. mur. fortis to an ounce of water is highly irritating, and, undoubtedly, sufficient to produce the disease. I have known it brought on by similar applications, and as to suffering them to remain in contact with the parts, as he directs; it would be only a more effectual mode of increasing the mischief. In the same paragraph, he says, that he has his doubts, as to the propriety of using any irritating injections in such cases from which it would appear, that he had



no experience of their beneficial effects. It comes simply to this; Would highly irritating applications be advisable in inflammation threatening mortification of any other part? It has been already proved, I presume, that it is not the venereal action that prevails; and the practice cotended for, is supported by Mr. H——'s maxim; "That no two actions can take place, in the same part at one and the same time;" to which I subscribe, for I conceive it perfectly consistent with the laws of the animal œconomy, that one disease should supervene on another suddenly, or progressively, and the new action prevail so as to suspend the original; although its *materies morbu*, should still exist, and produce its effects, after the accessary disease had subsided; the treatment, therefore, should be such as the present disease indicated,



which, in this case, is active inflammation, and requiring the mildest possible applications.

In all diseases of the penis, I would recommend the careful application of a bandage, extending so far below the prepuce, as completely to shield the penis, and prevent it coming in contact with foreign bodies in the smallest chancre ; I would advise it, and, although, it may seem an inconsiderable attention, yet it may make the difference between the preservation, and the loss, of the penis.

With respect to the phagedenic chancre, I would have it always kept in view, that it is not a truly syphilitic ulcer, and, that the habit which is liable to it, will be materially injured by mercury. If it sets in, early, evacuations will be found useful





ful, particularly by the skin, warm baths, and the soothing plan, for some time will be of service, The diseases, to which the constitution is disposed, should be studied attentively. Nothing can be more erroneous than the general practice of immediately giving bark on the appearance of a slough, and if a favourable change did not soon take place, opium, cicuta, nay, even mercury. A change of the wind, mental excitements, intemperance, or any derangement, would occasion a sloughy state, and bark, opium, and cicuta, increase the disease; the two last possess deleterious properties, and where they do not manifest medicinal effects, must prove prejudicial; therefore, they ought not to be persevered in, in any case, if a favourable change does not soon succeed their exhibition. So many, and various, are the causes upon which that state of sore may depend, that it is impossible



possible to lay down any express rule. I would merely insist, that mercury should be avoided as certain destruction. As\* to the local treatment, in irritable habits, stimulating applications are injurious, and encrease the disposition. In some torpid habits, they will prove serviceable. I have

---

\* The practice of touching chancre with caustic requires some discrimination. In irritable habits, or where a chancre has an irritable look, it ought not to be touched, but where there are hard indolent edges it will be of service. Mr. Bell's advice not to touch them, until after the system has been impregnated with mercury deserves attention.

That sagacious observer, Ambrose Parey, remarked, that acrid things should be used with great caution, for fear of a gangrene, which easily happens to that part; and that we ought to begin the cure of all ulcers of the penis, with the general remedies for ulcers; for that all ulcers of that part arising from copulation, are not virulent.

found



found emollient fomentations and poultices applied tepid, answer best; in the latter, warm aromatic fomentations, and the fomenting poultice.

I omitted, when observing on the constitutional treatment, stating, that it is at the commencement, I object to the bark, before the disease is characterized; should a state of debility succeed, the invigorating plan will then become seasonable, and the bark be of essential service.

In cases, where a partial destruction of the prepuce is the consequence of the limited mortification, it becomes necessary to remove the remainder by an operation, which is often attended with a troublesome sore, tedious and difficult to heal. This appears to me, to arise from inattention to the manner in which it is performed. On examining the  
struc-



structure of the prepuce, we find it is composed of a double portion of skin, and hangs so loosely as to admit of great distension. A cut through it divides not only a double portion of skin, but considerably more, on account of its laxity, and corrugations; hence the sore produced, must present a surface of more than double in that part, what it would be in any other of the same extent, and of dissimilar structure. Availing ourselves, then, of this observation, we ought to lessen the quantity of skin to be wounded as much as possible. In every operation, what a difference does the preservation or destruction of skin occasion to the expeditious, or tedious healing of the sore? yet, surgeons are every day astonished at the unkind appearances of the sores of the penis, under such circumstances; and set to work, sometimes with bark and mercury to correct the habit, whilst the

com-



complaint is local, and its increased degree arises from inattention to the common rules of surgery. Some surgeons lay hold of the jagged prepucce, stretch it forward, and dissect it off; thus, an increased quantum of skin is drawn in the way of the knife, and is unnecessarily removed. To avoid those inconveniences, an assistant should draw the skin tight upwards and circularly; in this way, a much lesser portion of it will be destroyed, than if it lay lax; the wounded surface will be but small, and the surrounding skin will nearly cover it. By this method, sores, after removing the prepucce, will heal nearly as kindly as sores of any other part. I would recommend, that no operation should be undertaken, until long after all disease, local and constitutional, had subsided.

Having animadverted with freedom, on the opinions of the late Mr. John Hunter, in the course of



these reflections. I hope, that I may not be understood, as insensible to the merits of that ingenious surgeon: no; I feel that his talents and his labours demand the most respectful veneration from every friend of science. I have differed from him on points of practice principally, and I held it as a duty which I owed society to endeavour to rectify what I conceived to be erroneous in that respect; and, although, many of his speculative thoughts appear to me as not well founded, still I can discover, in what I think errors, the laudable exertions of a strong and active mind, unceasingly employed to enrich the empire of science, and alleviate the sufferings of his kind: and, it is to be lamented, that in the various discussions, to which that gentleman's opinions had given rise, those liberal paths in which the professional character ought ever to tread, should have been departed from.



The preceding Observations are submitted to the consideration of the Profession, as the result of attentive observation. I have endeavoured to steer by the rule of experience, and to apply those acknowledged practical principles, to which all subscribe, and which are congenial to the known laws of the animal œconomy, regardless of any particuler theory; and, I believe, that the more closely we adhere to the ways of nature, the more certainly will we succeed in assisting her operations.



---

J. CUNDEE, PRINTER,  
IVY-LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW

---







